

EPCC NEWS

Evansville Psychiatric Children's Center
Volume 20, Issue 1
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The Joint Commission Accredited
Medicaid Certified
"Helping Kids SOAR"



Christmas Blessings



Every child should get the opportunity to enjoy a wonderful Christmas, no matter their current circumstances. EPCC is fortunate to have many generous Community Friends who give of their time, talents, and resources to make sure that all our kids had lots to look forward to at Christmas time.

EPCC's kids received bundles of toys, games, puzzles, sensory items, arts and crafts supplies, earbuds, gift cards, new clothing, warm pajamas, socks and underwear, and scented bath and body items from many community groups and individuals to include 911 Gives Hope, Vincennes University Jasper Campus Student Nursing, Sunshine

Homemakers Club, EVSC Office of Technology, Neeley Koester, ABATE Indiana, Anthem, St. Benedict's Cathedral, Olivet Presbyterian Church, and Holy Rosary Catholic Church.

We also received donations of lots of gently used clothing, gently used toys to include a beautiful dollhouse, a puppet theater, and many gently used books from community friends and some of our very own employees!

Additionally, we can't forget about the big ticket items we received for use at our facility, thanks to 911 Gives Hope. Along with all the toys on their "sleigh", they delivered 4 brand new Smart TV's, 4 Green Machines, and 2 Digital Cameras, which will be very helpful with therapeutic programming for the children.

All of EPCC's children and staff would like to extend a huge Thank You to all of our Community Friends who made a wonderful Christmas possible for all of EPCC's kids. Our buildings were full and overflowing with treasures which made each child's eyes light up with wonder.



Pictured:
Santa's Helpers, otherwise known as the volunteers from 911 Gives Hope.

Christmas Fun

As you can imagine, the Holiday season is a major event here at EPCC. We celebrate all month long with help from generous community groups who visit our facility during the month of December to provide our children with fun Christmas activities.

The children enjoyed making tie blankets, singing Christmas carols, and decorated Christmas cookies with Olivet Presbyterian Church; a pizza party and the Christmas Story from Bible Center Cathedral; a fun-filled Christmas Party with gifts from Northside Kiwanis; and a Santa's Workshop sponsored by Junior Mental Health Association in which the children picked out Christmas gifts

for their family members. The volunteers from JMHA helped the children shop and then beautifully wrapped each child's selections. The kids were very proud to give the gifts to their family members.

Volunteers from University of Evansville stopped by early in the month to help our children decorate our Christmas Tree on the dorms.

EPCC staff also provided lots of fun Christmas and Winter activities for the kids. Included was a trip to Swonder Ice Rink for ice skating, a trip to Showplace Cinemas to enjoy the movie Frozen 2, some much-needed play time at Vertical Escape in Newburgh, movie nights in the Family Room featuring Polar Express and The Grinch and yummy hot chocolate, and the

kids sang Christmas Carols for the staff as a thank you for making Christmas a magical time.

We would like to thank all of our wonderful donors and volunteers and hard-working staff for making the 2019 Holiday Season a memorable one for all the children we serve.



Christmas Caroling

Are We Doing Our Best?

It is the policy of EPCC to handle all concerns or questions in a timely manner.

If you have concerns or questions about patient rights, quality of patient care or safety, or ethical issues, please use the following steps.

Contact EPCC's management at 812-477-6436.

If concerns or questions cannot be resolved at the EPCC management level, you may contact:

Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction, Consumer Services or

Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Phone - 1-800-901-1133
TDD - 1-317-232-7844

Indiana Disability Rights

1-800-622-4845.

If concerns or questions cannot be resolved at any of these levels, you may contact:

The Joint Commission

Phone - 1-630-792-5800
Web site - www.jointcommission.org

The Joint Commission is a voluntary accreditation program in which EPCC participates. The Joint Commission's mission is to continuously improve the safety and quality of care provided to the public through provision of health care accreditation and related services that support performance improvement in health care organizations.

Would you like a tour of EPCC?

Call the Community Services Director at 812-477-6436 x 232 to schedule.



National School Lunch Program

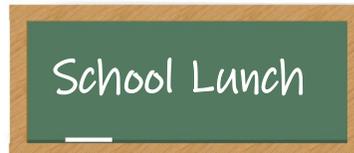
EPCC participates in the National School Breakfast and Lunch Program (NSLP) during the school year and the Summer Meal Program during the Summer school break. As you may already know, EPCC has an on-grounds school in which all our children receive education from EVSC teachers according to their current grade level. Our kids qualify for free school breakfasts and lunches while they are enrolled at EPCC. EPCC receives reimbursement from USDA for meals and snacks served to kids during the school day.

In order to maintain our participation in the National School Breakfast and Lunch Program and continue to receive reimbursement, EPCC must be audited by a representative from the State of Indiana every three years to ensure we are meeting the guidelines of the program. EPCC was visited by the representative for an audit on December 30, 2019.

EPCC must maintain a Wellness policy to ensure that NSLP guidelines will be met. The policy includes everything from forming and maintaining a Dietary Committee for the purpose of reviewing and implementing the NSLP guidelines, promotion of healthy eating and providing the children with nutrition education, to making sure the children receive plenty of physical activity and play time during the school day. A copy of this Wellness policy, which meets all NSLP minimum requirements, will be available soon on EPCC's website at <https://www.in.gov/fssa/dmha/3080.htm>

EPCC receives its meal and snack services daily from Cura, a contracted foodservice company. Cura staff are responsible for ensuring meals are served efficiently, fresh and at the right temperatures, the correct portions are served, and the meals are appealing to the children. Cura staff prepare our children's meals at Evansville State Hospital and transport the food to be served from EPCC's kitchen. Cura staff are also responsible for keeping the kitchen clean and sanitary according to NSLP guidelines as well.

Our children and their families will be offered information about free and reduced price lunches and locations of summer and after-school meal programs when they are discharged from our facility. Our goal is to make sure that our children continue to remain well-nourished and lead healthy lifestyles once they return home. Making EPCC's Vision of "children making positive life choices and contributions to their community" successful depends on collaboration from EPCC staff, contract dietary staff, families, and other interested community members.



We're Ready for Your Referrals

Refer through the assigned liaison from your MHC.
Referral packet information needed includes:

Psychology Evaluation with IQ
State Hospital Referral Form
CANS
Psychiatric Evaluation from your MD

Contact Sharon Austin at 812-477-6436, x226

Need to contact us?
Call 812-477-6436 (exts. listed below) or email

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MISSION
Resolve Needs – Build Strengths

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Published periodically
for employees and friends of EPCC.

Evansville Psychiatric Children's Center
Division of Mental Health & Addiction

